

Homeless Policy Academy Strategic Plan

Planning and Coordination

Strategy 1.1 **Summarize available data and resources to serve Hawaii's chronically homeless.**

- Action 1.1.1 Gather statewide data on target population.
- Action 1.1.2 Gather statewide data on affordable and subsidized housing stock.
- Action 1.1.3 Identify and develop catalogue of mainstream services
- Action 1.1.4 Review model programs or best practices that address the needs of the chronically homeless.
- Action 1.1.5 Explore feasibility of developing, funding, and maintaining a resource database.

Strategy 1.2 **Develop and implement a reliable homeless management information system (HMIS) to track clients and program utilization**

- Action 1.2.1 Initiate the new HMIS with state-contracted homeless provider agencies.
- Action 1.2.2 Expand the HMIS program to encompass federal, city and county programs.
- Action 1.2.3 Solicit private homeless provider agencies that do not receive public funds to participate in the HMIS system
- Action 1.2.4 Use HMIS to generate and publish placement outcomes and homeless success data.

Strategy 1.3 **Identify factors associated with chronic homelessness and use the findings to develop prevention and intervention protocols**

- Action 1.3.1 State and county departments determine what segment of their clients are chronically homeless.
- Action 1.3.2 Academy aides state and county departments in identifying opportunities for collaboration and integration of prevention and intervention protocols.
- Action 1.3.3 Each affected state and county dept. needs to identify a single point of contact for homeless issues to implement homeless prevention/intervention protocols and communicate with other departments about emerging issues and opportunities.
- Action 1.3.4 Modify the reporting requirements of substance abuse providers to include the number of participants who are homeless.
(Include drug court)

Strategy 1.4 Identify major barriers to accessing mainstream services and develop action plans to remedy the problem,

- Action 1.4.1 Identify and document the barriers to accessing services.
- Action 1.4.2 Address confidentiality concerns.
- Action 1.4.3 Develop and execute memoranda of agreement for interdepartmental partnerships.
- Action 1.4.4 Identify processes and mechanisms to share information with staff, providers and clients on service to the homeless – no wrong door with coordinated services.
- Action 1.4.5 Expand eligibility criteria for the seriously mentally ill to also include individuals who are chronically homeless due to co-occurring disorders.
- Action 1.4.6 Implement treatment models and expand services for co-occurring disorders
- Action 1.4.7 Increase accessibility to VA services.
- Action 1.4.8 Provide for intensive interventions such as acute medical care or psychiatric hospitalizations contact.
- Action 1.4.9 Provide cross training among mainstream providers and other providers.
- Action 1.4.10 Identify and implement training models for outreach, case management and housing specialists.
- Action 1.4.11 Establish points of contact for mainstream services.

Strategy 1.5 Create a public relations campaign to garner support, generate awareness, and secure partners for success.

- Action 1.5.1 Hold a press release and press conference on strategic plan.
- Action 1.5.2 Create a public relations campaign to publicize outcomes at regular intervals.
- Action 1.5.3 Develop and deliver presentations to targeted groups: County COCs, Governor, Lt. Governor, legislators, Hawaii Community Foundation and other advocacy groups.

Strategy 1.6 Improve discharge planning

- Action 1.6.1 Collect and analyze discharge plans and assess consistency with discharge actions.
- Action 1.6.2 Work with applicable entities to effectuate appropriate discharge planning, if necessary.

Targeted Services

Strategy 2.1 Strengthen statewide homeless outreach.

- Action 2.1.1 Increase homeless outreach staff so as to increase contact.
- Action 2.1.2 Convene quarterly outreach workers meeting to implement collaboration.

Strategy 2.2 Establish a Mental Health Court with treatment services.

Strategy 2.3 Formalize veteran parolees benefit awareness

Action 2.3.1 Establish outreach for intake of incarcerated Vets.

Action 2.3.2 Provide information materials to incarcerated veterans on benefits and services prior to parole.

Strategy 2.4 Establish a drop off center/wet house

Action 2.4.1 Collaborate with City, agencies and private sector to gain support for a site that will most serve the chronic homeless.

Strategy 2.5 Develop and improve current inter-agency communication and agreements with the state agencies that can influence and enhance release plans for inmates being released by the Department of Public Safety

Action 2.5.1 Coordinate with a variety of agencies, state and federal, to ensure eligible inmates receive available services and/or benefits. (SSI, Med-Quest, drivers licenses, veteran's benefits, employment training, financial management, mental health services, and others)

Action 2.5.2 Collaborate to enhance inmate stability upon release including housing intervention and equipping inmates with a transition plan to receive a continuum of community care upon parole.

Housing

Strategy 3.1 Develop affordable supportive housing.

Action 3.1.1 Develop new supportive housing projects, first in one county, ultimately in each county. Note: Project hoped to serve as demonstration to other counties and community. Phased development will reduce competition for limited funds.

Action 3.1.2 Explore establishment of preference for disabled or homeless in State and County-owned rental units and/or Section 8 programs. Note: Federal public housing already has a preference for homeless.

Action 3.1.3 Aggressively pursue funding for additional rent subsidies including but not limited to project based Section 8, assigned Section 8, Section 8 mainstream vouchers, Shelter Plus Care, HOME.

Action 3.1.4 Explore amending county Consolidated Plans to make homeless a funding priority. Note: Homeless is already a high priority in Kauai County's Consolidated Plan.

Action 3.1.5 Identify existing clean and sober housing and explore the establishment of additional clean and sober housing for clients.

Action 3.1.6 Determine need for group homes for dual diagnosis clients and explore establishing more to fill the need.

- Action 3.1.7 Investigate alternative financing sources for development of housing, including medical healing house, clean and sober housing, and group homes.
- Action 3.1.8 Work with other advocates to reduce timeframes for HUD 811 program approvals and release of funds.
- Action 3.1.9 Explore the need for an Oahu medical healing house.

Strategy 3.2 **Reduce barriers to securing and maintaining permanent affordable housing**

- Action 3.2.1 Provide training to Section 8 staff (including inspectors) and property managers on dealing with the chronically homeless.
- Action 3.2.2 Explore establishment of affordable housing placement service linked with case management, providing assistance to tenants and maintaining list of potential landlords.
- Action 3.2.3 Institute damage guarantee or other mechanism for Section 8 program to encourage program participation. Note: AMHD has program in place already.

Demonstration Project

- Strategy 4.1 **Test collaborative model.**